

August 26, 2002



The Honorable Trudi Williams, Chairman
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, Mail Stop 4420
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416

RE: Draft SFWMD white paper on Reservations of Water for the Environment

Dear Chairman Williams:

The Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management (ABM) was established in accordance with the settlement agreement for the completion of the permitting for Florida Gulf Coast University. The ABM membership consists of, but is not limited to, delegates from local chambers of commerce, Citizen and Civic Associations, Lee County SFWMD, FDEP, FG&FWFC, FGCU, SWFRPC, commercial and recreational fishing interests, environmental and conservation organizations, the Responsible Growth Management Coalition, the Town of Fort Myers Beach, City of Sanibel, scientists, affected property owners, and the land development community. The ABM is a non-regulatory, advisory body whose directive is to make recommendations for the management of Estero Bay and its watershed.

The ABM reviewed the draft white paper entitled "Reservations of Water for the Environment and Assurances for Existing Legal Sources Consistent with Federal and State Law." We request that the white paper be modified to include the Estero Bay, the Caloosahatchee estuary, and the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) as legal source user basins for environmental purposes. We expect that Figure 3 and its associated table on page 16 would be amended for the final paper to include the Estero Bay, the Caloosahatchee estuary, and the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW). Following adoption of the white paper, we also request that a statutory or pre-CERP reservation be developed for the Estero Bay, for the Caloosahatchee estuary, and for the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW).

If you have any questions, please contact me at beeverjw@aol.com.

Sincerely,

James W. Beever III, Chair
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

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Cc: SFWMD Governing Board and Executive Director